

THE American Freedman.

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The American Freedman's Union Commission, 30 Vesey Street, New-York City.

"The object of this Commission is the relief, education, and elevation of the Freedmen of the United States, and to aid and co-operate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition upon the basis of industry, education, freedom, and Christian morality. No school or depot of supplies shall be maintained from the benefits of which any shall be excluded because of color."—*Am. II. CONSTITUTION.*

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THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN.

30 VESSEY STREET, N. Y. CITY.

This journal is published as the central organ of the Freedman's Union Commission, for the benefit of the Freedmen and the information of all who are interested in the work of education in the South.

Copies will be furnished *without charge* to any Branch of the Commission for distribution in connection with their organs or for such other use as may best subserve the interests of their work. Communications should be addressed to the General Secretary, Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT, 30 Vesey Street, New York City.

TERMS.

Advertisements, one insertion, at the rate of \$30 per page for ordinary inside pages; but for an inside page, opposite general reading matter, or for the outside—last—page of this journal the price is \$40; payable, in all cases, as soon as the journal is published.

One copy of THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN, to a regular subscriber, one year, twelve numbers, one dollar.

Any person contributing five dollars per annum to the cause, to any Branch of this Commission, is entitled to receive one copy of this journal free. Single copies, 15 cents. Copies for advertisers, 10 cents each.

The American Freedman.

THE New York Branch held its regular annual meeting in April. The Board of Trustees was enlarged by the addition of several men whose counsel and service will be of great value to the work. Among them are Rev. T. H. Skinner, D. D., Rev. George B. Bacon, of Orange, Rev. E. F. Hatfield, D. D., and Rev. H. M. Field, D. D. Very interesting reports were presented from the various committees, extracts from which we hope to give in our next issue.

The regular annual meeting of the New England Branch was held April 5th. We are not advised whether any changes were effected in the working force of the organization. An annual report was presented by Mr. Edward L. Pierce. This report, exceedingly valuable in itself, is of greater value because prepared by a gentleman who has been familiar with this educational movement from its inception, was one of its founders and originators, and has thus peculiar facilities for tracing its growth and estimating its results. We hope to see this report published in a pamphlet form for preservation and future reference. We give some extracts from it in another column.

Promptness in correspondence is very important in all business operations, especially in carrying on such a work as that in which this Society is engaged. Teachers in the South and Auxiliaries in the North can not be too careful to be prompt in reports and in replies to special letters. Attention is called to an appeal on this subject from the Committee on Correspondence of the New York Branch, addressed, indeed, especially to the Auxiliaries of that Society, but well worthy the consideration of all our Auxiliaries in different districts.

Arrangements have been made by which we shall hereafter receive a monthly official statement from the Bureau at Washington, embodying the substance of the reports received at that office from the various Assistant Commissioners, and Superintendents, and local officers through the South. This,

with extracts from our Southern files and our correspondence, will afford our readers a reliable and impartial monthly picture of Southern sentiment and society.

Rev. Crammond Kennedy, the Corresponding Secretary of the New York Branch, has recently returned from a tour through the South. We give, in extracts from one or two of his letters from Florida, his impressions of the work in that State, gathered in this trip.

PROGRESS.

WHILE the enthusiasm of feeling which gave the freedman's movement its impetus at the beginning has, in a large measure, subsided, a deep and abiding moral and religious conviction of the necessity of this work, and the obligations which impel to it, is taking the place of the more ardent but more transient feeling. The churches, the Christian people, and the humane and patriotic of all classes, increasingly recognize the duty which is laid upon them of following, supplementing, and completing emancipation with education.

On Sunday, April 14, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher preached a characteristically powerful sermon on behalf of this Commission and its work, in which he urged universal education as the basis of all real and true national strength. The sermon elicited, at several points, a hearty applause; but the best evidence of its effectiveness lay in the fact that at its close a collection of over two thousand three hundred dollars was taken up for the Commission.

Other churches are not behind. Rev. T. L. Cuyler, D. D. has presented the cause recently to his church who have generously responded to his appeal. Others have done so or are only awaiting the opportunity.

Among the most significant indications, however, of the hold which this work has gained on the Christian conscience of the North, is contained in the action of the Third Presbytery of New York City, taken after a full presentation of our work, and a full and free discussion of the principles and methods of the Society.

Extract from the minutes of the Third Presbytery of New York, in session at New York, Monday, April 15th, 1867:

"The Presbytery, having heard from the Rev. John Bradshaw, agent of the American Freedman's Union Commission, a statement of the plans and operations of this Society for the enlightenment and moral improvement of the freedmen of the nation,

"Resolved, 1. That we acknowledge, in the deliverance of the millions of our Southern countrymen from their grievous bondage, the wonderful providence of God, and adore His holy name for this signal display of sovereign goodness.

"Resolved, 2. That we rejoice that 'the American Freedman's Union Commission,' a noble institution, has been organized, and is engaged in an effort to elevate, through Christian agencies, those who have been so long down-trodden and oppressed.

"Resolved, 3. That we earnestly commend to the churches under our care, the Rev. John Bradshaw, as the agent of the Society aforesaid, and desire their co-operation with him in his great and holy work."

A true extract.

EDWIN F. HATFIELD,

Stated Clerk.

TO OUR AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

DEAR FRIENDS:—We are compelled to request of you a prompt acknowledgment of the receipt of our letters.

So long as they remain unacknowledged, we cannot be sure that they have reached you—as they may have been lost, or your answers may have miscarried, or you may be waiting until you can give a definite reply—and, in the uncertainty, we often feel obliged to repeat our enquiries, which occasions much useless labor.

Please, therefore, write immediately when you receive a letter from us, even if you cannot reply definitely until later. We shall then patiently await your further action, and you will greatly oblige,

Your friends and fellow laborers."

ELLEN COLLINS, *Chairman.*

E. A. SAMPSON,

JOSEPHINE S. LOWELL,

SARAH M. HITCHCOCK,

FANNY RUSSELL.

ELLEN SHAW.

*Committee on Correspondence
and Organization.*

JAMAICA.—THE TEACHING OF EXPERIENCE.

It is now over quarter of a century since emancipation was proclaimed in Jamaica. No half-way work was made. The experiment of an apprentice system was speedily

abandoned. The negro was enfranchised as well as emancipated, and he sat by the side of the white man in halls of legislature and on the judicial bench.

Nevertheless, representative government has proved a failure in Jamaica. The ruin which slavery had wrought, freedom has failed to repair. Commerce has decayed. Trade has decreased. Industry has not been well and wisely stimulated. Plantations, by nature fertile, have fallen into hopeless decay. Legislation has been crude. Poverty has environed the Island, not as an armed man, but as an invincible blockade, until at last the legislature have voluntarily resigned their charter, and the representative form of government has been supplanted by a colonial administration which is little else than a moderated absolutism.

The causes of this decay are numerous. Not least among them has been the entire failure to provide the emancipated slaves with any system of public instruction. The following extract from Mr. Sewall's Ordeal of Free Labor in the West Indies, is full of instruction, in this respect, to all who love their country, and desire to see freedom in this country carried out to its proper consummation:

"No general system of public instruction has been introduced in Jamaica, and it is surely unreasonable to expect that this people, or any other people, could acquire a knowledge that has never been placed within their reach. It is estimated that there are 65,000 children in Jamaica between the ages of five and fifteen, and for their education the legislature voted last year the sum of £2,950—less than a shilling for the instruction of each child during a space of twelve months. About 7,000 scholars were benefitted by this grant, the schools in connection with the Church of England getting two-thirds, and the Dissenters one-third, although five persons go to 'chapel' where one goes to 'church.' The total number of scholars receiving instruction at the present time is barely 20,000; and of these 13,000 are educated by different charities, missions and private subscriptions. It is deemed discourteous 'to look a gift horse in the mouth,' and the creoles of Jamaica, I suppose, must be thankful for the crumbs of learning they are allowed to pick up. The Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Moravian, Baptist, Independent, and, though last, not least, the American Missions, are all doing good in their way. Within four years past, the number of scholars attending their schools has considerably increased, while within one year past the number of scholars attending the schools supported by Government has decreased nearly thirty per cent. But all these schools

are of a sectarian character. If they do good they also do harm by encouraging a sectarian prejudice, most injurious, in my judgment, to the best interests of the negro population. At the present moment there are populous districts in the island without any schools at all, and others where the schools already in existence are in debt, unable to pay for teachers, and will be compelled to close unless they receive some timely assistance. If this neglect to instruct the rising generation is so glaring to-day, when civilization everywhere admits the principle that a free government can only rest on the basis of popular intelligence, how much greater was the neglect ten or twenty years ago, when the education of the masses in Jamaica was deemed unnecessary and impolitic? The natural intelligence of the negro is not disputed, at least, in this island; why not, then, improve it? The desire of the people to learn cannot be denied with the fact in view that 200,000 out of a population of 350,000 attend the different places of worship every Sabbath day. It is only at the point where the moral responsibility of the untutored negro ceases and the duty of the Government begins, that we find a deplorable lack of common prudence and common sense. The old plantocracy, with wretched foresight, opposed the training and education of a people upon whose training and education their own prosperity depended. And the governing classes of to-day seem inclined to follow their example. If they do, they can only reap the same bitter disappointment. When government fails, as it fails in Jamaica, to care for human life, and to see, with unaccountable apathy, the country destitute of medical aid, it is not surprising that the population should exhibit an annual decrease. When government fails, as it fails in Jamaica, to give any consideration to popular education, it is not surprising that vice and immorality should alarmingly prevail. Under a rule of such pernicious neglect, it is not surprising that the Governor, in proroguing the legislative session of 1858, should say that 'in many of the country districts the people are abandoned to the spells and debasing superstitions of the working Obeak and Myalliam, and to the scarcely less injurious practices of other ignorant empirics of the lowest grade.' I am only surprised that the great middle class of Jamaica—the small landed proprietors, the mechanics and tradesmen of the island—should have been able, in the face of so many obstacles and such mountains of opposition, to compass the difficulties that surrounded them, and emerge from a darkness that still envelopes many of their less fortunate and weaker brethren."—*Seacall's Ordeal of Free Labor*, pp. 255-6

COLORED EDUCATION AT THE SOUTH.

THE METHODS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN'S UNION ASSOCIATION.

[From a paper read at the Annual Meeting of the N. E. Branch of the American Freedman's Union Commission, in Boston, April 5th, 1867, by Edward L. Pierce.]

The society thus designated as a branch,

was organized February 7, 1862, and anticipated all other associations organized during the war for the special purpose of educating and protecting persons of African descent, recently slaves, who were found within the lines of our army. Kindred societies were soon after formed in New York and Philadelphia. Others were formed some time after in the Western cities, and still later, one in Baltimore. These associations were in a measure united in the autumn of 1864, under a common name. They were subsequently combined with another society which had been formed for the special purpose of affording material aid to the loyal white refugees of the South. The final effort for a more complete union resulted in the American Freedman's Union Commission, which has now ten branch societies established at central points in the loyal States, gathering up the charities of the New England, Middle and Western States, California, Nevada, and of the enlightened nations of Europe, and administering them for the education and development of the people of the South of whatever race or color. The pupils taught in its schools exceed in number those of all other benevolent organizations combined, whether sectarian or secular. Its fundamental purpose is thus stated in its constitution:—

"The object of this Commission is the relief, education, and elevation of the freedmen of the United States, and to aid and co-operate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition upon the basis of industry, education, freedom and Christian morality. No school or depot of supplies shall be maintained from the benefits of which any shall be excluded because of color."

Its central office established in New York City and directed by an executive committee chosen from the several branches, conducts necessary correspondence with the Freedmen's Bureau and with the friends of the cause in foreign countries—keeps in harmonious co-operation the societies which compose it—counsels such an assignment and distribution of teachers as will prevent the accumulation of schools in some districts to the neglect of others—classifies statistics, utilizes the national sympathies for four millions of freedmen,

and secures for the enterprise, breadth, catholicity, and the confidence of good men everywhere. Its president, chosen during the past year, is Chief Justice Chase, of the Supreme Court of the United States. It was fitting that the choice should fall on this eminent public servant, who had been for thirty years the faithful advocate of the negro race, and who, as a member of President Lincoln's cabinet upon the occupation of the Sea Islands of South Carolina, had initiated and fostered with personal interest and official supervision the first organized movement for the education and protection of slaves brought within our lines by the fortunes of the war. Nor has his connection with our organization been one of ornament or title only. He has attended and addressed its public meetings, and aided its deliberations by his counsels. While thus on the one hand the Freedman's Union Commission has endeavored by a combination of effort to promote unity, harmony and economy, it has been careful to avoid any such centralization as would be likely to weaken the interest of the different sections of the country in its work. Each branch has the exclusive charge of the collection of funds in the States or districts naturally tributary to it, controls its own treasury, selects, pays, corresponds with and dismisses its teachers, and is administered in much the same manner as before the union. Our movement has thus gained unity and nationality by a more complete and wider organization, while, what is equally important, it has lost nothing in the individual interest and enthusiasm which is best preserved where a community can see in some field of labor the rewards and fruits of its own particular bounty.

* * * * *

It is thus, while a part of a larger fellowship, our Society has retained its identity. While rejoicing in the spirit of patriotism and Christian love in the services of associations united with us, it is fitting now to contemplate its peculiar history and work. At first, in March, 1862, acting fraternally with the society just then organized in New York, it sent twenty-nine teachers to the Sea Islands of South Carolina. This was at a time when that limited

territory and the immediate vicinity of Fort Monroe afforded the only opportunity of teaching the negroes of the rebel States. In January, 1863, it opened a school at Craney Island, near Fort Monroe, which a few months later was removed to Norfolk. In July of the same year, it opened at Newbern the first regular schools for freedmen in North Carolina. It sent teachers at an early day to Washington City. In January, 1865, it opened the first school for freedmen in Maryland. It had already, in the winter of 1863-4, sent teachers to the camp of Col. William Birney, then recruiting colored troops in that State, who gave at the time emphatic testimony to the value of their co-operation. Confined during the war to the sea-coast, it found itself at the close of the rebellion admitted to a field co-extensive with the former slave States, which it was quick to enter as fast and as far as its funds permitted.

The New England branch now supports one hundred and twenty-four teachers, who instruct eight thousand and six hundred pupils. It sustains schools in the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. But it has concentrated its energies mainly on the freedmen of Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina.

Our work in Maryland is thus testified to by the branch society of that State in its report issued in November last. It says:—"The New England Freedman's Aid Association has never failed us, nor have we ever called on it for assistance without receiving a cheerful and liberal response. Without its constant sympathy, encouragement and generous aid, our work would have at least amounted to but a small result, and very likely not have been continued." Such testimony ought to bring to our branch all the funds which it asks. The same report counts upon an expenditure by us upon Maryland alone of \$10,000 for the current year. In Virginia we have conducted schools at such important points as Richmond, Alexandria, Charlottesville, Gordonsville, Louisa Court House, Orange and Warrenton, places memorable in war, as well as centres of population and influence.

In South Carolina our branch leads all others, supporting nearly one third of the

teachers of the freedmen employed in that State. Our special field has been the city of Charleston, and the district in the north-eastern part of the State which is drained by the Great Pedee and its tributary branches. It is with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction that we contemplate what we have been permitted to accomplish in South Carolina and its chief city. They have been associated with the darkest features of American history. They now bid fair to be associated with its brightest. It would be difficult to find anywhere in the world to-day evidences of human progress so rapid and so sure, as that now manifested among the enfranchised masses of a State, which, more than any other in history, has been identified with the defence of negro slavery. South Carolina joining the sisterhood of free States and supporting five schools—a spectacle which we hope to witness at no distant day—would indeed be a compensation for the precious blood shed in the war!

* * * * *

The American Freedman's Union Commission, while requiring that all persons in charge of its schools shall by their lives and precepts be the teachers of Christian morals, has not limited its selection of such persons to any sect or class of sects. It has taken for its model the free schools of New England as they are and have been from the beginning, inculcating Christian duty, but not sectarian belief. It has been its aim in this way to spread through the Southern States a system which without a single change would be accepted by the governments of those States upon the adoption of the policy of free schools. It is evident that a society which confines its teachers to any particular denomination of believers, or assumes to inculcate in schools doctrines not common to all Christian bodies, can furnish no example or aid in this direction. Its schools could not be accepted as they are, for the Southern communities are and will be divided religiously as our own. Such societies, which confine their instrumentalities to missionaries of their own name, and act in the immediate interest of one sect or fellowship of sects, would be an example to the States now in process of reconstruction to surrender pop-

ular education as an eleemosynary or voluntary work to the various religious bodies, instead of establishing it as a fundamental institution of a free commonwealth. There is a prejudice in those States, and a strong one, too, against free schools even for white persons. It can be overcome only by a system of education as catholic and comprehensive as free government itself. As well have asked that the chaplains of all the regiments by which the republic was saved should be of one sect, as now to ask a like limitation in the employment of the teachers of the freedmen. The plenary council of the Roman Catholic church, recently held in Baltimore, passed a resolution which has since received the approval of the Holy Father, recommending parochial schools, to the implied exclusion of public schools, upon the ground that "religious teaching and religious training should form a part of every system of school education." Understanding the term "religious teaching and religious training" as here used to include not merely Christian duty, as accepted by all Christian sects, but in addition thereto some peculiar system of doctrine received by some believers and discarded by others, we must submit that it would be a movement in a retrograde direction for Protestants at this late day to accede to a principle so hostile to modern ideas of education and government.

While making these criticisms, which it would not be honorable to suppress, we would do no injustice to others. A different view from our own has been held, unwisely and without proper reflection, as we believe, by friends of the colored race who are as patriotic and conscientious as we can claim to be; and we are happy to add that in fields of labor where our teachers have met their employees there have been entire co-operation and good fellowship between them. The pressure of a common antagonism, and the enthusiasm of a common cause, have ensured harmony to operations conducted upon a somewhat different basis.

The contributors to our enterprise should not assume that it is to be perpetual in its claims on the public charity. If it were we should insist that no worthier could be found. It is, however, limited to a tran-

sition period. The colored people came out of the tribulation of war and slavery without capital, destitute of food and clothing, and of homes they could call their own, oppressed by unequal laws and fixed ideas of caste, with no leaders of their own who had the intelligence and power to guide and protect them. They started on their new career with opinion, property, society, law, all against them. They needed a helping hand to put them on their feet. This temporary assistance we have been giving. Its necessity would ere this have been superseded but for the unhappy turn of public affairs which followed the assassination of President Lincoln. The proper termination of our charity will come when the Southern States shall have formed governments upon the basis of equal rights, civil and political, and shall have put in actual operation free schools for all, irrespective of color or race. That day is, we believe, not distant. It will take some time to go through the details of reconstruction, and further time to arrange the machinery of free schools and open them to the public. We shall then be happy to pass over to the civil authorities the methods, appliances, and corps of teachers now under our charge; and close our special work as the Sanitary and Christian Commissions closed theirs upon the return of peace. This is a result which, in a country and age where events pass so rapidly as in ours, may be reached in one, two or three years, as we believe. We expect at the end of the present season to withdraw from the District of Columbia on account of the free suffrage already established there, and the free education for which provision has been made by act of Congress. We expect to discontinue the support of teachers in Baltimore with the present year in view of expected appropriations to be made by the City Council.

The State of Tennessee, in which our brethren of the Pennsylvania branch take the lead, has extended suffrage to the colored people, and enacted a law for the support of schools for all, irrespective of color or race. The Legislature of Florida, in January, 1866, enacted a law providing for "a superintendent of common schools for freedmen," and requiring him to "estab-

lish schools for freedmen when the number of children of persons of color in any county or counties will warrant the same." These provisions may not at present be effective, but they indicate what cannot fail, under a proper system of reconstruction, to become, before long, the policy of the Southern States.

We have in this report mainly considered the beneficence of our schools with reference to colored children. This is because they have been excluded from other provisions for education, and are therefore most benefitted by them. They are, however, open to the white children, who are cordially welcomed to their privileges.

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THE SOUTH.

ITS CONDITION.—REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.—THE WORK IN TENNESSEE, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, THE CAROLINA'S, VIRGINIA, MARYLAND AND DELAWARE.—LEGISLATION.—THE SCHOOLS.—FREEDMEN'S MEETINGS.—FREEDMEN'S COLONY.—DESTITUTION.—EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

FROM a mass of reports and correspondence, including official reports from the Bureau, we present our readers in the extracts given below, what will afford them an accurate and we think a graphic picture of the condition and prospects of the work in the South. These reports are arranged according to States, and include reports from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE.

MAJ. GEN. HOWARD is in receipt of a report of the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau, the condition of the freedmen, &c., in the States of Maryland and Delaware, under the control of Brev. Maj. Gen. Gregory, Assistant Commissioner, for the quarter ending March 31. In February, Gen. Gregory made a tour through Delaware, traveling through the two lower counties of Kent and Sussex. Considerable opposition to any action with reference to the education of colored persons was encountered. Labor was abundant and no evidences of idleness were apparent, or complaints of injustice heard.

LEGISLATION.

IN Maryland the condition of the colored people has not been materially amended by any action of the State Legislature. The only acts passed, tending to ameliorate their condition, were a bill to repeal the law authorizing the sale of negroes into slavery as a punishment for crime, a bill to repeal certain sections

of the code relating to negroes, known as the black laws, referring to kidnapping, the importation of convicts or slaves, incendiary publications, and unlawful marriages. An attempt to legalize the unjust apprenticeship laws of the State was defeated. On the other hand, the following acts have been passed tending to embarrass the efforts of the Bureau officers and increase the difficulties encountered in securing justice to the colored people: A bill limiting the power of the criminal court in Baltimore to issue writs of *habeas corpus*, an act giving compensation to judges and magistrates for expenses incurred in resisting the civil rights bill, and a resolution directing the State Comptroller not to recognize or pay any claims for State bounty to any military officer now in the United States service or who has been discharged therefrom, unless said officer be an agent or attorney resident permanently in the State. The effect of this resolution is to prevent the settlement of several hundred claims for State bounty now on file with the Comptroller of the State, unless a new power of attorney is executed in each case, authorizing some citizen who is a permanent resident of the State to collect said claims, and then to turn over to the Bureau for distribution to the respective claimants the amounts so collected.

The bill limiting the power of the criminal court in Baltimore was intended to operate against Judge Bond, who presides over that court. He has stood like a wall between the colored people and their oppressors, and through the right taken away from him by this act had restored many children to their parents, after long separation by illegal binding under the apprentice laws.

A bill was also passed forbidding the reception of the evidence of colored people in the civil courts of the State.

General Gregory says: "As before stated, the acts passed by the State Legislature affecting freedmen will tend to impede our efforts to secure speedy justice, as the civil magistrates, not hesitating to violate the civil rights bill—no pecuniary sacrifice being involved—will necessitate our having them arrested and brought before the United States Commissioner, which course will be taken by this office in all cases of neglect on their part to do justice to freedmen.

In Baltimore city and county the condition of the colored people is favorable; no distinctions are made in the admission of whites and blacks into the benevolent institutions, or in extending medical assistance to the sick through the city dispensary.

The parties charged with participation in the camp-meeting riot at Shipley's Woods, in August last, (all colored men) were released from jail for want of evidence against them—the grand jury failing to find an indictment.

APPRENTICE SYSTEM.

THERE are now 2,381 colored apprentices in the State, or an average of 150 to each county. In Washington county the orphans' court has refused to bind any more children; in Alleghany county but seven have been bound during the last three years, and in Dorchester county not one remains. Reports from all the counties show that the system has begun to

yield to the continued pressure brought against it through the Assistant Commissioner's office and the loyal solicitors of the State. The action of the last Legislature in conferring the jurisdiction of those cases to the circuit and orphans' court of each county, will delay the restoration of illegally-bound children to their parents by depriving the Criminal Court of Baltimore of the power to issue writs of *habeas corpus*.

SCHOOLS.

THE schools are steadily increasing, but not so rapidly as the demand. There are now in Maryland, mostly supported by the Maryland Branch of this Commission, 99 schools, with an aggregate of 5,606 scholars average attendance, exclusive of private, Sunday, and other schools not reported to the Bureau.

IN MARYLAND.

THE prejudice against education of freedmen will soon disappear in Maryland. No school-houses have been burned nor personal violence offered to teachers during the quarter. Applications for assistance in establishing schools are increasing. Many applications for teachers cannot be complied with as the Baltimore Association is unable to supply the demand, for lack of funds. *Thus, in some cases, whole counties are left without a single school—others have but two or three where there should be a half-dozen. Could the requisite teachers have been furnished, the number of schools would have been increased at least thirty per cent. since the commencement of the present school term.*

IN DELAWARE.

In his recent tour in Delaware, Gen. Gregory met with much opposition. Meetings were held at Dover, Milford and Seaford. The opposition has since much decreased. Schools for freedmen are already opened at Wilmington, Dover, Milford, Seaford, Smyrna, Odessa, Christiansa and Newcastle.

Ten estimates from Delaware are now on file for the construction of school-houses, the lumber for which is being forwarded. The Baltimore Association is erecting ten school-houses in Maryland, lumber being furnished by the Bureau.

VIRGINIA.

THE following interesting letter we give in full, not only because of its interesting and graphic description of the condition and wants of the colored people, but, also, because it gives the detailed information which our co-workers need, as to the kind of clothing and supplies which they should make up:

PETERSBURG, April 18th, 1867.

MR. E. C. ESTES,

DEAR SIR.—I received from your Association a few days since, several packages of clothing for distribution among the destitute freed-people of this District. Among them were a number from our friends across the water, viz: No. 1274, from Mrs. Jane Bell, Belfast.

" 1276, from Mrs. Wm. Brown, Evesham, Worcestershire, Eng.

No. 1246, from Mrs. E. Grubb, Sudbury, Eng.
 " 1281, from Mrs. S. J. Clemesha, Preston, Eng.

" 1350, from Mrs. Lydia Brown, Luton, Eng.
 The last named contained fourteen dozen straw bonnets, with ribbon for trimming. These are very suitable for the women, and delight them extremely. The men also are charmed to get them on the top of their hats, and walk off twenty or thirty miles into the country, bearing them to their wives and daughters. The other packages were all very valuable, consisting very generally of coarse, strong clothing, which is just what we want. I have distributed every article, personally, after making all possible investigation, and I believe they have all been appropriated to the relief of cases of extreme necessity. Some cases have been particularly interesting.

One man came from Sussex County, about thirty miles distant, bringing a letter from his former owner, who was known to, and endorsed by Major Stone, Superintendent of the District, under the Bureau. It stated that he had an invalid wife, five small children, and an old father and mother to provide for. That he was "a man of most exemplary character, sober and industrious habits," and, "I do not know a single instance of misconduct on his part during his life, and he belonged to me many years." This was a remarkable case, but similar ones are of daily occurrence, where men, with large families, are straining every nerve to "make bread," as they express it, for their families, but where to buy clothing, is out of the question. A great number of widows also come, of whom one cannot help wondering how they can get bread, in these fearfully hard times, for themselves and children. I was very glad, also, to be able to supply clothing, from these English packages, to many of the children in a school, four miles from the city, on the Boynton Plank Road, which I have established on my own responsibility. It is in a neighborhood in which I have been much interested for a long time, and is taught by a young colored woman, who has been in training in our schools ever since they were established here. It is held in one of the many log houses built by our soldiers during the war, and is on land owned by a colored woman. The teacher, Eliza Alston, is well qualified to instruct them, and I always find the children looking bright and happy with their books, and the school in just as good order as those taught by white teachers. There are about seventy in the day school, ten or twelve in the night school, and a hundred in the Sabbath school. Miss Eliza manages it all herself, conducting with perfect propriety and success the singing, prayers and lessons.

Last Sabbath I went out to visit the Sabbath school. It was quite wonderful to see them all so orderly and happy looking. When I recalled to them the great change that had been brought about for their race since a few years back, when their fathers "did not dare so much as to look on a piece of paper as if they *known* anything," as they have often told me, and to teach a colored person was a

crime, to be punished by the Judge, while now they could set in the school-house un molested, with a competent teacher of their own color; and asked if any one could tell me to whom they were indebted for this great change in their condition: many hands went up, and one little bare footed fellow, when called upon to answer, said, "Yankees, I reckon," while another *reckoned* it was "the *noonion* army."

I think the kind friends, who send these valuable gifts of clothing for the naked, may rest assured that, in most cases, they are helping those who are trying to help themselves. It is very true that some, of a lazy and vagabond character, come to beg; but whenever it can be ascertained that they are such, they are sent away empty handed, our object being, so far as possible, to stimulate exertion, but never to encourage idleness.

In this District of sixteen Counties, there are thousands of families who are thankfully enjoying the benefits of these christian charities, and taking up the great burden that has fallen so suddenly upon them, with a cheerful courage. The hoes, spades, and garden seeds, have been eagerly sought for, and many more could have been distributed to advantage. For the want of these useful articles, much land in the country will remain uncultivated. Many here told me that their chief dependence through the year has been the hoe I gave them last spring.

"She has given me a spade and right smart potatoes," said a woman to-day, "and now I am going home and going right to digging."

Many of the men, as they walk off with their spades over their shoulders, a bag of potatoes on their heads, garden seeds in their pockets, and a bundle of clothing under their arms, throw back from a beaming countenance, a glance full of gratitude, saying, "I never shall forget you, Miss Charlotte. I certainly does hope you'll rest in the Kingdom when you dies."

With a most cordial feeling of gratitude to those who have so generously co-operated with me in this good work,

I remain,

Yours truly,

C. E. McKAY.

FREEDMEN'S MEETINGS.

SENATOR WILSON has commenced his Southern tour. We hope to see him followed by others. Free speech, free discussion must follow the free school and accompany the free ballot. He arrived at Petersburg, April 4th.

"During the afternoon," says the *Daily Express* of that city, "he paid a brief visit to the main points of interest on the lines, accompanied by General Stoneman and friends, and upon his return he was solicited by a number of citizens to deliver an address before leaving the city. And though he had not anticipated such a

thing, he consented to speak from the balcony of Surratt's, at 8 o'clock, whereupon bills were circulated to that effect throughout the city. The notice was sufficient to attract an immense number of colored people and several hundred whites, including many of our leading and most substantial citizens. The balcony was thronged exclusively with white citizens. The assemblage was illuminated by an improvisation of railroad lanterns and pine torches.

"When Mr. Wilson appeared on the balcony he was greeted with prolonged cheers. Upon being introduced to the meeting by Mayor Collier, he proceeded in a plain, unstudied manner to make an address and was listened to throughout with respect from all parties."

REGISTRATION AND VOTING.

The arrangements made by Major Scofield for the registration of qualified voters, are thus announced in the Virginia papers:

"There is to be one registering officer for each magisterial district in the counties, and one for each ward in the cities, whose qualifications are to be: Having been an officer in the United States army, or being a loyal citizen of the county in which he acts, or of some other county in the State; he must have a high character, and, as far as possible, have the confidence of his fellow-citizens; he shall not be a candidate for any office, an officer of the army or Freedmen's Bureau. The appointments of all officers are to be made by General Scofield on the recommendation made by an examining board of army officers."

THE CAROLINAS.

LETTER FROM MISS ELLA ROPER.

NEWBERN, Jan. 1st, 1867.

I must tell you of an evening last week, spent so pleasantly that, simply for the enjoyment, I could wish you to have been present. The occasion was an "Exhibition," solely under the charge of the colored people, the proceeds of which were for lighting their school room with gas. Three years ago these children knew nothing, and now they give us evening entertainments. There was one admirable little actress, a beautiful child, of perhaps six years, who elicited the warmest applause—a highly accomplished officer, sitting near me, exclaiming, "It makes me ashamed of my own children!"

We gather together, daily, a motly crowd of humanity, from infancy almost to old age, bringing in, as well, every grade of mental ability, from the small boy, who seems to swallow the alphabet whole, to the poor deformed creature, who cannot remember a letter from one week to another, but who steadfastly perseveres, hoping that she may sometime be able to trace out the Word of God.

Our most faithful and diligent scholars seem, as in all the rest of the world, to be those who are laboring under the greatest difficulties; one of these is "Dumpey," a boy of twelve years, in whom one cannot fail to be interested. He "commenced his education" with us about six weeks ago, and has gone on with wonderful rapidity, until now, he reads intelligently, and is one of the first in arithmetical calculation. He lives with a widowed mother, some distance from the city, and is her only support. He is a grave, serious child, with his weighty responsibility always looking out from his large, cloudy eyes.

Bare footed, bare shouldered, bare headed little things, we find bundled together at the church door these cold winter mornings, but all cheerful, all ready to shiver over their books as soon as the time comes. Nothing seems to diminish their eagerness to learn, in many cases, nothing to satisfy it, and a scrap of an old book, or a single leaf, is treasured as sacredly as a miser's gold.

Feb. 1st.—Among our scholars is one class of adults, who are taking two or three months rest from labor, for the purpose of "getting an education." It is really painful to see them toiling so faithfully at their primers, knowing, as we do, that, with all their earnestness, they will never see more than a glimmer of the light that has been shut out from them, and it is a relief to turn from them to the children who stride from alphabet to primer, and from primer to reader, in a wonderfully short time.

LETTER FROM MISS CAMPBELL.

[Supplied by the North Shore Freed. Union Soc., & L.]

PLYMOUTH, March 3d.

We find nearly all the girls and some of the boys, much interested in the sewing, and very anxious to learn; some of the older ones already sew very nicely, but cannot put a garment together, so I have given them one to make entirely.

We feel that, *outside* of our school, we are accomplishing something in conquering prejudice, and securing the good will and esteem of some of the leading people in the town, whom we have met, and who have promised to call on us, treating us most cordially. The Episcopal minister, also, has sent word that he intended to see us soon, and would assist us in any way in his power.

LETTER FROM MISS GERTIE N. BARRETT.

[Supplied by Wayne County, N. Y.]

TRENT CAMP, N. C.

OUR schools are doing nicely. I like my school very much. The schools have not been quite as large for a few days, owing to the larger ones leaving school to work. I think, generally speaking, there is not the amount of destitution and suffering there was in the winter among the people in camp.

I have been improving the pleasantness of the afternoon, after school, in visiting or calling around among some of the people in camp, and was very much pleased and interested to hear some of them talk. They seem, generally, to be improving the advantages that they have so lately been permitted to enjoy, and if

they are sometimes slow in learning the lessons of self-reliance, that their freedom is destined to leave them, I do not wonder at it when I think of their long years of bondage, but only wonder they do as well as they do. I think it would be among the impossibilities, nearly, if not quite, to find an equal number of whites, with nothing more to do with than these people, living as quietly and peaceably together as do these people in Trent Camp.

We have an excellent Sabbath school. There seems to be a deep interest taken in it by the colored people, both large and small, and I think I can truly say, I never was in a Sabbath School in the North where there was any more, if as much, interest manifested by the children as is here; they all learn lessons and learn them so well, and so eagerly listen to any explanation we may give. I am quite positive that when this, my first school year in the South is finished, I shall not consider my work, in trying what little I can to help these long oppressed and hitherto down trodden people, finished, but shall wish to teach them yet another year.

I intend opening a sewing school in my school next week. Capt. McPhillips has kindly offered to furnish us with some articles for sewing, &c., when we open our sewing schools.

The schoolers, with either the box of books containing my goods, or the one with the barrel and box to Miss C. L. Adams and myself, have not arrived yet. We are anxiously awaiting their arrival.

The teachers wish to be remembered to you.

Yours, in the work,

GERTIE M. BARRETT.

THE FRANCHISE.

THE political revolution wrought by the extension of the franchise, meets with some harmless ridicule; but excites far less of violent hostility and oppression than most people expected.

"I was amused," writes a correspondent from Newburn, "at the chat I heard in the cars coming down. One man stated that he went to the Convention to hear his nigger, Jim, make a speech. A chorus of laughter greeting the announcement, he affirmed it was the best speech of the Convention, and scouted the idea that Jim had been assisted in getting it up. Altogether the talk was less bitter than one would have expected. The South-side view showed itself in the logician who, pointing to the groups of laborers we passed in the corn-fields, demanded, 'Whar's the difference 'twixt now and then?' 'Do they eat any more?' 'Do they wear any more?' and paused complacently. And I beheld a serene resignation in the face of one who, declaring himself disfranchised, remarked apropos, 'where will you find the man of note or ability in North Carolina who is not disfranchised.'"

GEORGIA.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION.

By an order bearing date April 1st, Maj. Gen. Pope assumes command of the Third Military District, comprising the States of Alabama, Georgia and Florida. The headquarters of Florida are fixed at Tallahassee, of Georgia at Milledgeville. The civil officers at present in office are continued until the expiration of their terms of service, "so long as justice is impartially and faithfully administered." They are warned not to use any influence to deter the people from taking an active part in reconstruction; and no elections are permitted except as provided by Act of Congress.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THESE are being held all over the State. We note in particular reports of such, in which the colored people were the prevailing element, held in Atlanta, Columbus, Savannah, and Dalton.

While the meetings are of varied political complexion, so far as regards the character of the speakers, the resolutions adopted are everywhere in spirit and substance the same; recognizing and approving the policy of Congress, joyfully accepting the ballot, and cordially inviting in the work of reconstruction the co-operation of all loyal friends of humanity. We note as characteristic of the intense desire of the freedmen for education, the passage of two resolutions given below. One at a meeting held in Savannah, March 16th, under the leadership chiefly of radicals and Northern men; and the second at a similar meeting held in the same city, on the 1st of April, apparently under the guidance of Southern men, presided over by ex-Governor James Johnson,

"Resolved, That it is the duty of the colored people to receive instructions, advice and assistance from all loyal persons who are willing to impart the same, but especially those who have proved themselves the true and tried friends of their race; and that we will, believing it to be the duty of every good citizen, encourage in every possible manner any person or persons establishing and conducting schools to educate, elevate and enlighten them, and we pledge to such institutions our hearty co-operation and support.

"Resolved, That the education of the whole people is of the highest importance to the prosperity and perpetuity of a free Republican Government, and that we will henceforth earnestly labor for the education of every citizen in our State."

EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

A CALL has been issued by Mr. Eberhart, Superintendent of schools, for Georgia, for a State Educational Conven-

tion, to be held in Macon, on Wednesday, May 1st, 1867, and to continue in session until all matters, bearing directly upon the educational interests of the colored people of this State, which may be brought before it, shall have been thoroughly examined and disposed of.

One most important topic to be brought before the convention is *the necessity for a general school system*, by which schools may be placed within the reach of every colored individual in Georgia.

All ministers and teachers, both white and colored, are cordially invited to attend, and take part in the deliberations of this Convention.

DESTITUTION—MILITARY ORDERS.

GENERAL SICKLES, Commandant of Military district No. 2, embracing North and South Carolina, has issued orders under date of Charleston, S. C., April 11, setting forth that the general destitution prevailing among the population of the district renders necessary for their relief the adoption of extraordinary measures. He therefore orders that no person shall be imprisoned for debt except upon conviction of fraud; that judgment or decrees for the payment of money on causes of action arising between December 19, 1860, and May 15, 1865, shall not be enforced by execution against the property or the person of the defendant; that sheriffs, coroners and constables shall suspend for twelve months, sales of property on liabilities contracted prior to December 19, 1860; that all proceedings for the recovery of money for the purchase of negroes are suspended; that in sales of property by execution or order of court there shall be reserved to defendants having families depending upon them, implements of husbandry, household goods, &c., to the value of \$500, and that the property of absent debtors shall not be taken under the foreign attachment process. The order also prohibits the practice of carrying deadly weapons, except officers and soldiers, and makes an offender amenable to trial and punishment by military commission; the punishment of death in certain cases of burglary and larceny is abolished, and authority is given the Governors of North and South Carolina to reprieve or pardon persons convicted and sentenced by civil courts, and to remit fines and penalties."

Surely, we of the North need no other evidence of the demand for our generous charities than the fact that poverty is so general and wide spread as to necessitate such measures of relief as are here indicated.

FLORIDA.

FROM two letters of Rev. Crammond Kennedy, published, (one in the *Indepen-*

den, and the other in the *N. Y. Evening Post*.) we make some extracts:

"Last Monday evening I attended a most suggestive meeting in the Baptist church at Jacksonville. If a Floridian had prophesied four years ago that there would be such a gathering, he would have been regarded as a fanatic or a fool, or denounced as an abolitionist—once the synonym of both. The body of the building was crowded with freedmen, the gallery with freedwomen, and the pulpit with ministers, who, one of these wonderful days, will get as much per annum for preaching as they would have brought on the auction-block before the war. A grave, gray-haired, and dignified pastor presided. When I entered, which was with difficulty, the first speaker was warning his hearers against bribery. '*Be de man nebah so pooh, if him hab no coat, no shoes, no bread, he must not sell his vble—not for five dollah, nor five hundred dollah, nor fifty thousand. If he do, we will spurn him from us foreber and foreber, for wid a great price obtained we dis freedom.*' This noble sentiment brought down the house. Men shouted to the speaker, and each other, 'We will! we will!' He concluded with a forcible argument for gratitude, (voting for Union men) moderation, and unanimity."

SCHOOLS.

"THE New York branch of the Freedman's Commission is sustaining the model schools for the Florida Freedmen. It is the only Northern society which is at work in this State, as far as I have been able to ascertain, and I have visited most of the important places. It has sixteen teachers, located as follows: three at Fernandina, five at Jacksonville, three at Magnolia, two at St. Augustine, one at Palatka, one near Micanopy, and one at Gainsville. Miss Chloe Merriek, whose health was seriously impaired last summer in the orphan asylum at Magnolia, has lately gone home to rest and recuperate. These teachers report an aggregate of nearly 1,000 enrolled pupils in the day-schools, and, about half as many, mostly adults, in the night-schools. They all teach in Sunday-Schools, and visit the families of their pupils, as they are encouraged to do in their printed instructions. An important feature of the civilizing process in which they are engaged is instruction in sewing. There was an old Scotch lady, who, soon after the Emancipation Proclamation, sent a gross of spectacles for the uncles and aunts whose eyes had waxed dim, but who, nevertheless, wanted to read the Bible for themselves before they died. Will not mothers in Israel, whether at home or abroad, send thousands of thimbles to E. C. Estes, 30 Vesey street, New York; and, to give a point to my suggestions, needles too?"

"It thus appears that there are over 10,000 of the free people in Florida under instruction; but not more than one-quarter of the number who are taught as they should be. Normal schools, in which colored men and women shall be thoroughly trained for teachers, should be established throughout the South, one in every State, with the least possible delay."

FINANCES.

"This State has a system of education which includes the freedman in its provisions, and which, if it were not for the want of funds, would be quite effective. Rev. E. B. Duncan is Superintendent of this department. He appoints colored teachers, who receive one dollar a month for each fatherless pupil from the State, and the same for the others from their parents. But these schools are poorly provided with books, and are almost destitute of maps, slates and illustrated cards. Moreover, as the treasury is empty, 'warrants' are given to the teachers in payment, and sold by them at a loss of from twenty to thirty per cent. Were they not receivable for taxes they would scarcely be bought at any price. The Governor's salary is \$4,000 per annum, of which he has received but \$500 in cash for eighteen months. I understood him to say that Mr. Duncan had drawn none of his, which is \$1,000 per annum, because the tax of \$1 per head on adult negroes is not collectable. No wonder, when the schoolmaster makes a monthly levy of the same amount. One or the other should be abandoned, for it is not in human nature to pay twice for the same thing willingly. Again, the colored teachers, with some marked exceptions, are not competent. Neither spelling nor pronouncing correctly, they cannot give their pupils a right start, and this is all important."

IMMIGRATION.

"It is estimated that twenty-five thousand strangers have visited Florida this season. The number will be doubled next winter. Many northerners are looking out for places which they will buy and improve and on which they will escape the piercing cold and trying changes of our northern winters. Florida has evidently a great future. There is no southern state which has such a fertile soil, such a genial climate, and such facilities for internal and external communication. Railroads can be built with but little grading, timber is abundant, and canals will need few locks. A company has lately been chartered to open an inland route by water from Fernandina to Jupiter Inlet—a distance of about four hundred miles along the coast. Not more than ten miles of excavation is necessary to make a safe and

unbroken highway of civilization out of the marshes, creeks, and rivers which skirt the peninsula on the east. Fish and game are so plentiful that the emigrant who has a gun and a hook can live like a prince. The 'hummocks' are rich enough to reward industry with large crops of corn and potatoes, while the lower lands are well adapted for cotton. All that is needed to make Florida our Eden is an intelligent, industrious, loyal and virtuous population."

CIVIL LAW.

"AFTER returning to Jacksonville I went to Gainesville by rail, and thence three miles beyond Micanopy on horseback. Here, as at Palatka, civil law is dead. A negro was recently murdered while studying a primer at his door. Mr. Austin, the superintendent of the hotel at Palatka, took white waiters with him from the North, whose presence and peaceableness made the ruffians so angry that they attacked one of the boys with knives while he was working on the stoop. The sheriff was ordered by the Common Council to arrest them, but they defied him, and still defy him. There is no denying that crimes against Unionists and freedmen are seldom punished at all, and scarcely ever as they should be. The southerners who want to dwell in quietness and attend to their own business lament this insecurity, but lack the courage to take up the gauntlet that its authors have thrown down. I have been told that these outrages are of rarer occurrence now."

FREEDMEN'S COLONY.

The following abstract from a report received from the Bureau does not give a very encouraging picture of the attempt to colonize the freedmen in separate and special settlements:

On the first of April the Bureau is in receipt of a report made by W. J. Purman, Special Agent of the Bureau, on the condition, conduct and prospects of the colony of freed-people located at New Smyrna, Volusia county, Florida, by Gen. Ralph Ely.

Mr. Purman arrived at the colony on the 13th March, found the settlements scattered along Mosquito Lagoon and Spruce Creek, for a distance of ten miles. The communication being mainly by water, a boat was employed, and nearly every family visited.

It appeared by the statement of the emigrants, that they started from Charleston under the impression that they were going to the vicinity of Jacksonville, Florida, and that at the place of their destination employment could be obtained to supply their wants until the cultivation of their own lands would afford them a livelihood. Arriving at the spot selected, they found no shelter but palmetto huts, no homesteads surveyed and ready for them, and no prospect of procuring employment.

In the midst of these disappointments, planters from adjoining counties came among them offering great inducements for laborers, and thus, of twelve hundred who composed the original number, nearly one thousand freedpersons were induced to abandon the colony.

PRESENT NUMBER AND CONDITION.

The number of families still remaining is thirty-eight, comprising, in all, two hundred and thirty-three persons. These are scattered through the forest, divided by water and marsh. Twenty families live on what they consider their own land, though none have yet received certificates from the land office at Tallahassee. The balance are squatted on private lands known as Spanish grants—waiting for their land to be pointed out to them.

WANTS.

No general or real suffering has yet taken place, though individual cases of destitution have occurred. On arrival, Mr. Purman found three barrels of pork and one of beans, United States subsistence stores, of which he took charge for distribution to the more needy. The colonists have been sustained by the faith that the Government or Bureau would come to their relief, but are now becoming discouraged. Their main subsistence is now upon "comtee," a bulbous root, resembling the beet, which is found in abundance. By grating, soaking, straining, and drying this root an article like pulverized starch is prepared, from which a bread is made. The "palmetto cabbage" also aids in eking out a precarious subsistence. The only other sources of assistance are a miserable saw-mill owned by the "Florida Land and Lumber Company," employing, temporarily, half a dozen freedmen; and Captain Swift, who, in getting out live-oak timber, employs an equal number. The county is large and thinly settled, containing but one hundred and twenty voters. The inhabitants are poor, with no avocation but stock-raising—living, generally, from ten to fifteen miles apart. Under these circumstances, some of the freedmen find themselves compelled to walk from fifty to sixty miles seeking employment, returning in a few days, with their wages, in scanty provisions, on their shoulders, to alleviate the wants of their families.

FUTURE OF THE COLONY.

How long these colonists may be able to subsist upon the "comtee," the wild cabbage, and the flesh of their neighbors' cattle, is problematical. That their future does not look promising appears from the following figures:

AMOUNT OF GRAIN PLANTED.

Whole number of acres of corn planted	76
Average number to each family	2
Probable number of bushels to the acre	6
Probable number of bushels to each family	12

This estimate of the yield is high when the quality of the soil and the manner of cultivation are considered.

QUALITY OF THE LAND.

"The land is the regular *white-sand, piney-woods*, whose spontaneous productions are well

known to consist in nothing but *gopher-holes, salamander-hills*, bastard palmettos, scrub oaks and pine trees." The Spanish tracts upon which many are located, consists of an old, exhausted soil, which, in its most luxuriant days, was not adapted to raising grain.

MANNER OF CULTIVATION.

The colonists have no implements of husbandry except the hoe. Not one owns a horse, ox, or plow. With the axe they clear the land, dig holes at intervals with the hoe; into these the corn-seed is dropped.

HEALTH OF THE FREEDMEN.

During all this trying experience the health of the people is good.

CONDUCT OF THE COLONISTS.

The freed-people have been orderly and industrious. They desire to remain to test the soil, and are determined not to return, under any circumstances, to South Carolina. Their desire to possess land and a home of their own is very strong.

THE COUNTRY.

The selection of this place for a colony is considered very unwise. No good United States land can be obtained. The best land—the old Spanish grants—can not be bought in small quantities, nor at reasonable prices. Nature did not intend this as an agricultural region, though capital could develop great sources of wealth in fisheries, lumbering, and tropical fruit-growing.

TENNESSEE.

LETTER FROM MR. WM. MITCHELL.

The following letter, written by Mr. William Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools in Tennessee, in response to a request of the Corresponding Secretary, is of such general interest that we transfer it to our columns in full:

Nashville, 2d month, 26th, 1867.

REV. GEORGE DUFFIELD, D. D.,

RESPECTED FRIEND:

"With the request contained in the enclosed letter from the Corresponding Secretary, I most cheerfully comply. It is now three years since the Pennsylvania Freedman's Relief, now the Pennsylvania Branch of the American Freedman's Union Commission, commenced its work in Tennessee and North Alabama. Within the past year and a half the Pittsburg Commission has been associated with it, though the latter is not yet an auxiliary of the Central Commission. The work has been under my care from the first, and commencing with a single school in Stevenson, Ala., through difficulties of no ordinary character, it has struggled to its

present position, embracing, at the writing of this, seventeen distinct school organizations, five of these being Normal Classes for the preparation of colored teachers. These schools contain about 1,400 children. We have, besides these, an Orphan Asylum at Nashville, and have distributed more than \$10,000 worth of supplies, clothing, food and fuel. At Nashville, which is our chief supply station, we have five schools, in two buildings, and a normal class held in a third.

"We have here six white teachers, and two colored. The former are all members of what are termed 'Evangelical Churches,' some five denominations being represented. In addition to their day-school labors they hold Sabbath-schools, and the whole history of the effort shows a great amount of real missionary work. The class among whom we labor at Nashville are of the poorest, strangers who came in during the war. We met them when Hood drove them before him, and have stood by them ever since. Though there are several other associations laboring here, I think they will admit that if the effort to prevent suffering constitutes missionary effort, we have done our full share, and expended as much money in this direction as the rest put together.

MURFREESBORO.

"At Murfreesboro, Tenn., we have two flourishing schools and a Normal class. These Normal classes have about twenty pupils each. I would you could see this class of embryo teachers. They are very fine young people. Here the Pennsylvania Branch has had a fair chance. The town has now a public opinion. Church membership has increased, benevolent societies have been organized, sociables have been held, and the colored people are prospering. There is scarcely a department of culture, whether social, literary, or religious, which has not received an impetus from our teachers. This station is thirty miles south-east of Nashville. Eighty miles farther in the same direction is Stevenson, where we have two schools and a Normal class. Here our work is fairly developing, and this summer several small schools in the neighboring country will be taught by young people whom we have educated. The teacher here is an advisor of the colored people in everything, and a plan is now on foot to enable the freedmen to purchase small homesteads at a cheap rate. The people here are Baptists and Methodists, but, as the Principal is neither, he is able to grade the work, using one little church for the primary, and the other for the higher school.

HUNTSVILLE.

"Sixty miles nearly west from Stevenson is Huntsville, where we have also two schools and a Normal class. One of the schools here is held in a 'Southern Methodist' church granted us by a *Southern Board* on the ground of our undenominational character. The whole work here is being vigorously prosecuted.

FLORENCE.

Farther west is Florence, five miles below the Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee. Here we have an excellent school and Normal class, taught by a young colored man from Oberlin, a person of fine attainments and cultivated manners. The training of colored teachers is a sort of specialty with us. We have eighty in course of preparation. Nine of these are employed now as 'low class' assistants in our schools, at a small salary, thus enabling them to attend the Normal class half of each day and pursue their education.

CHARACTER OF THE TEACHERS.

"With a single exception, all the teachers who have been placed in my care during my three years of service have been what is termed 'Orthodox' in religious belief. One gentleman, a Unitarian, constitutes the exception. He threw up a good position and gave his services to the Association from a professed feeling of duty. He is not with us now. I think we all agree in one thing, namely, that the religious instruction most needed by the freed people is the application of Christianity to moral conduct.

"I think that gradually we are reaching the parents through the children.

METHODS AND SUCCESS OF OUR WORK.

"Practically, there is not much difference between our way of working and that of the denominational associations, excepting that a church organization is attached to some of their schools.

"I think, however, that there is a certain heartiness about our work which they do not seem to have. The individual teacher with us occupies a better position, feeling at liberty to work in any direction for the good of the colored man. Then, too, we can select from all denominations good friends of the colored people, making an interest in the work the first requisite. We have such now. I am in correspondence with them all, and they are interested and hard at work for the whole community in which they live. There is no hostility

to our own Association by the whites hereabouts. It is difficult to fight a cause which, like this organization, has not an element of strife in it.

Very respectfully yours,

WM. MITCHELL,

Superintendent, &c.

TEACHERS AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

The following beautiful tribute to the teachers among the freedmen is from a recent sermon by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, upon the Widow's Mite :

"A few years ago, when I was in Charleston, I went down to one of the Islands and saw a sight that affected me more than the contemplation of all Mr. Peabody's munificence. There were two magnificent trees upon the Island—live oaks, immense beyond anything I had ever imagined. Their great limbs were sturdy with the growth of many decades of years. The ground beneath was soft with leaves and moss, and lying down upon my back I looked up into the hearts of those monarchs. I worshipped God there.

"But not even these wonderful temples built by the Almighty's hand moved me as did the plain, insignificant freedmen's school-house that stood in their shadow. Thank God it is not so rare a sight now, on Southern soil! And there expatriated, living with the rude people, relinquishing the pleasant and refining influences of home, were two young ladies from the North, giving themselves (and that is infinitely more than money) to the holy work of aiding this downfallen people. They were highly educated, cultivated, accustomed to homes of affluence and lives of ease, but for Christ's sake in the person of these "little ones" they rejoiced in exile, in privation, in weariness. Do you wonder then when we say—and from our deepest hearts we say it—Mr. Peabody has done nobly, my heart responds: They have done more!

"Is not such a sacrifice noble beyond anything that my poor words have power to express?"

TRIBUTE TO THADDEUS STEVENS.

In the sermon preached on behalf of the American Freedman's Union Commission, on Sunday morning, the 14th ult., Rev. Henry Ward Beecher said :

"When Thaddeus Stevens shall die, his virtues will be better appreciated, and his name will be more highly honored than now, for he is one of those men who are very inconvenient when alive, and very valuable when dead. It will be remembered that, in the dark hour of his country's history, when other men were afraid to speak, he was not afraid to speak; when

other men were afraid to be unpopular, he was not afraid to be unpopular, and did not count his life dear; but I think that, if I were he, I would rather have written on my grave-stone, "FATHER OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF PENNSYLVANIA" than any other inscription that could be put there. And from the grave no calmer, no purer light could stream, so far as humanities are concerned, than the inscription to him, as his life's work, the founding of the system of common school education which has disenthralled that State from its ignorance, and brought it, by knowledge, to the stature and power of a gigantic Commonwealth."

NEW YORK BRANCH.

Receipts by Edward F. Davison, Acting Treasurer, from March 20th, to April 30th, 1867.

FROM AGENTS.

Mr. Longley, Mar. 23, \$11; April 15, 125.
Rev. Mr. Colton, Mar. 23, \$72 26; April 1, 31 01; April 15, 198 90.
Rev. Mr. Thomson, Mar. 30, \$106; April 1, 77 66; Apr. 15, 35 50, April 20, 84 93.
Rev. W. B. Long, Mar. 23, \$350; April 27, 168 90.

FROM AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

Seneca Castle, \$105 91; Ballston Spa, 200; Bannockville, 8 40; Ripley, 21 90; Norwich, 125; Oswego, 46; Newburgh, 119; Walton, 11; Rondout, 150 50; Hamlet, 5; Tompkins Co. 31; Seneca, 72 55; Victor, 16; Farmington, 5; Sterling, 36 41; Hannibal, 87 67; Albany, 500; Kingston, 125; Hartland, 11 01; Farmersville, 21; Maine, 10; Bethel, 6 75; Ballston Spa, 400; Newburgh, 95; Utica, 150; Sing Sing, 125; Geneva, 279 56; Oswego, 20; Hamilton, 6 25; Cooperstown, 105; Fort Byron, 150 85; Ithaca, 2 95; Oswego, 40; Potsdam, 183; Ogdensburg, 125; Malone, 106; West Galway, 8; Utica, 165 01; Irvington, 125; Phoenix, 100; Kingston, 42 50; Portsmouth, 225; North Shore, 100; Fulton, 128; Buffalo, 250 50; Watertown, 105; Hatfield, 127 44; Hopewell, 11 50; Victor, 66 65; Harrison, 13 38; Newburgh, 52; Rome, 125; New Ohio, 5; East Otto, 19.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Henry P. Cline, \$1; A. F. U. Com. 106 59; Mrs. Bushnell, thro. Miss Stratton, Fairhaven Conn. 5; Mrs. S. A. Bond, Northampton, Mass. 5; S. Squier Staten Island, 10; Mrs. Jas. Sampson, 150; Miss Mercie Baker's coll. in Bangor for Normal School, Richmond, 926 13; Nancy Lavalley, North Manchester Conn. for Journal, 1; collection taken up at Plymouth church, Brooklyn, 2,317 07; Jos. B. Collins 125; C. P. Case for Journal, 1; E. J. McNeiman, 1;

Receipts of the American Freedman's Union Commission.

Mar. 27. All Souls Church, N. Y. by W. M. Prichard, Jr., 246 65
" 29. All Souls Church, N. Y. by Rev. H. W. Bel-
lows, 2 00
Apr. 15. Geo. L. Bracket, Flint, Mich., 50 00
" 22. C. B. Southworth, Manchester, N. H., 5 00
" 30. Charles Downing, Newburgh, N. Y., 5 00
May 3. Fr. U. C. Portageville, Wyoming Co. N. Y. 8 10

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